
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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Petersburg Area Office
16 Sing Lee Alley
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Date: April 25, 2012
Time: 4:30 p.m.

Petersburg/Wrangell Herring Update #3

The department conducted surveys of Ernest Sound and Hobart Bay/Port Houghton yesterday and today. Survey conditions were generally good with light winds. Fisheries will not occur in either Ernest Sound or Hobart Bay/Port Houghton this spring.

Ernest Sound

Spawning in Ernest Sound is over and the spawn deposition survey was conducted yesterday. There were approximately 9.65 nautical miles of herring spawn mapped from aerial and skiff surveys of the area. Spawning was focused in the core spawning area in and around Vixen Inlet, but moderate spawn did occur in the Onslow Island area.

Hobart Bay/Port Houghton

Spawning started on Saturday, April 21, and continued through today with a small spot spawn. Spawning was focused in the Herring Sanctuary and the immediate vicinity. To date, the cumulative mileage is approximately 1.9 nautical miles. The predator activity was diminished during today's survey.

2012 Herring Summary

Ernest Sound

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| April 9 | No herring activity; 15 sea lions. |
| April 13 | No herring activity; 15 sea lions. |
| April 16 | 2.5 nm active spawn; 105 sea lions. |
| April 17 | 2.75 nm active spawn; 100 sea lions, 2 whales. |
| April 18 | 2.0 nm active spawn; 16 schools of herring; 92 sea lions. |
| April 19 | 2.25 nm active spawn; 15 small schools of herring; 130 sea lions. |
| April 20 | 0.70 nm active spawn; unknown quantity of predators. |
| April 21 | 0.25 nm active spawn; 43 sea lions. |
| April 22 | 0.2 nm active spawn; 63 sea lions. |
| April 23 | No herring or active spawn observed; 35 sea lions. |
| April 24 | No Herring or active spawn observed. |
| April 25 | No Herring or active spawn observed. |

Hobart Bay/Port Houghton

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| April 18 | No herring activity; 50 sea lions. |
| April 21 | 0.7 nm active spawn; 40 sea lions. |
| April 22 | 1.1 nm active spawn; 1 large herring school; 36 sea lions; 2 whales. |

April 23 0.7 nm active spawn; 115 sea lions; 1 whale.
April 24 0.1 nm active spawn; 120 sea lions.
April 25 0.1 nm active spawn; 55 sea lions.

The next aerial survey will be conducted Friday, April 27, and will include Hobart Bay/Port Houghton.

Petersburg/Wrangell herring updates will be posted on the ADF&G web site listed below.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

| <i>Office</i> | <i>Ketchikan</i> | <i>Petersburg</i> | <i>Wrangell</i> | <i>Sitka</i> | <i>Juneau</i> | <i>Haines</i> | <i>Hoonah</i> | <i>Yakutat</i> |
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| <i>ADFG</i> | 225-5195 | 772-3801 | 874-3822 | 747-6688 | 465-4250 | 766-2830 | | 784-3255 |
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| <i>Herring Hotline</i> | 225-6870 | 772-3700 | | | 465-8905 | | | |